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# UNIFORM SEARCH SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SELECTIVELY SHARING DISTRIBUTED ACCESS-CONTROLLED DOCUMENTS

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## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

10 A privacy-preserving index system addresses the problem of providing a  
privacy-preserving search over distributed access-controlled content. Indexed  
documents can be readily reconstructed from inverted indexes used in the  
search. The privacy-preserving index system builds a centralized privacy-  
preserving index in conjunction with a distributed access-control enforcing  
15 search protocol. The privacy-preserving index utilizes a randomized algorithm  
for constructing a privacy-preserving index. The privacy-preserving index is  
strongly resilient to privacy breaches. The privacy-preserving index system  
allows content providers to maintain complete control in defining access groups  
and ensuring its compliance, and further allows system implementors to retain  
20 tunable knobs to balance privacy and efficiency concerns for their particular  
domains.